What is claimed is:

1. A method for automatically pausing a video program in response to an occurrence of an event, comprising:

receiving a video program and outputting the video program for presentation on a display device;

detecting occurrence of a communications event during the video program;

pausing the video program in response to the detection of the occurrence of the communications event; and

outputting a signal for displaying an indication of the occurrence of the communications event.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the detecting step includes detecting an incoming telephone call.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein the outputting the signal step includes outputting the signal for displaying a telephone number associated with the incoming telephone call.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein the outputting the signal step includes outputting the signal for displaying a text message associated with the telephone number.

5. The method of claim 3 wherein the outputting the signal step includes outputting the signal for displaying a graphic associated with the telephone number.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the detecting step includes detecting an incoming e-mail message.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein the outputting the signal step includes outputting the e-mail message for presentation on the display device.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the detecting step includes detecting an incoming message.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the outputting the signal step includes outputting the message for presentation on the display device.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein the detecting step includes detecting an incoming web page.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein the outputting step includes outputting the web page for presentation on the display device.

12. The method of claim 1, further including:

receiving a play signal to restart the video program; and

transmitting, in response to the play signal, the video program for presentation on the display device starting at an approximate location where the video program was paused.

13. The method of claim 12, further including:

receiving a fast forward signal to increase a rate of transmission of the video program; and

transmitting, in response to the fast forward signal, video program at an increased rate for presentation of an increased rate of display of the video program on the display device.

14. The method of claim 12, further including:

receiving a rewind signal to reverse a rate of transmission of the video program; and

transmitting, in response to the rewind signal, the video program at a reversed rate for presentation of a reversed rate of display of the video program on the display device.

15. The method of claim 12, further including:

receiving a slow motion signal to decrease a rate of transmission of the video program; and

transmitting, in response to the slow motion signal, the video program at an decreased rate for presentation of a decreased rate of display of the video program on the display device.

16. The method of claim 1, further including:

receiving a frame forward signal to display a next frame of the video program; and

transmitting, in response to the frame forward signal, a next frame of the video program for presentation of the next frame on the display device.

17. The method of claim 1, further including:

receiving a frame back signal to display a previous frame of the video program; and

transmitting, in response to the frame back signal, a previous frame of the video program for presentation of the previous frame on the display device.

18. The method of claim 12, further including:

receiving a jump signal to display the video program from a current point of transmission; and

transmitting, in response to the jump signal, the video program for presentation of the video program from the current point of transmission on the display device.

19. The method of claim 1 wherein the receiving step includes receiving information to associate with a particular phone number.

20. The method of claim 19 wherein the receiving information step includes receiving textual information or graphical information.

21. The method of claim 19 wherein:

the detecting step includes detecting occurrence of an incoming telephone call associated with the particular phone number; and

the outputting step includes outputting the signal for displaying the information associated with the particular phone number.

22. An apparatus for automatically pausing a video program in response to an occurrence of an event, comprising:

a receive module for receiving a video program and outputting the video program for presentation on a display device;

a detection module for detecting occurrence of a communications event during the video program;

a pause module for pausing the video program in response to the detection of the occurrence of the communications event; and

an output module for outputting a signal for displaying an indication of the occurrence of the communications event.

23. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the detection module includes a module for detecting an incoming telephone call.

24. The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the output module includes a module for outputting the signal for displaying a telephone number associated with the incoming telephone call.

25. The apparatus of claim 24 wherein the output module includes a module for outputting the signal for displaying a text message associated with the telephone number.

26. The apparatus of claim 24 wherein the output module includes a module for outputting the signal for displaying a graphic associated with the telephone number.

27. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the detection module includes a module for detecting an incoming e-mail message.

28. The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the output module includes a module for outputting the e-mail message for presentation on the display device.

29. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the detection module includes a module for detecting an incoming message.

30. The apparatus of claim 29 wherein the output module includes a module for outputting the message for presentation on the display device.

31. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the detection module includes a module for detecting an incoming web page.

32. The apparatus of claim 31 wherein the output module includes a module for outputting the web page for presentation on the display device.

33. The apparatus of claim 22, further including:

a module for receiving a play signal to restart the video program; and

a module for transmitting, in response to the play signal, the video program for presentation on the display device starting at an approximate location where the video program was paused.

34. The apparatus of claim 33, further including:

a module for receiving a fast forward signal to increase a rate of transmission of the video program; and

a module for transmitting, in response to the fast forward signal, video program at an increased rate for presentation of an increased rate of display of the video program on the display device.

35. The apparatus of claim 33, further including:

a module for receiving a rewind signal to reverse a rate of transmission of the video program; and

a module for transmitting, in response to the rewind signal, the video program at a reversed rate for presentation of a reversed rate of display of the video program on the display device.

36. The apparatus of claim 33, further including:

a module for receiving a slow motion signal to decrease a rate of transmission of the video program; and

a module for transmitting, in response to the slow motion signal, the video program at an decreased rate for presentation of a decreased rate of display of the video program on the display device.

37. The apparatus of claim 22, further including:

a module for receiving a frame forward signal to display a next frame of the video program; and

a module for transmitting, in response to the frame forward signal, a next frame of the video program for presentation of the next frame on the display device.

38. The apparatus of claim 22, further including:

a module for receiving a frame back signal to display a previous frame of the video program; and

a module for transmitting, in response to the frame back signal, a previous frame of the video program for presentation of the previous frame on the display device.

39. The apparatus of claim 33, further including:

a module for receiving a jump signal to display the video program from a current point of transmission; and

a module for transmitting, in response to the jump signal, the video program for presentation of the video program from the current point of transmission on the display device.

40. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the receive module includes a module for receiving information to associate with a particular phone number.

41. The apparatus of claim 40 wherein the module for receiving information includes a module for receiving textual information or graphical information.

42. The apparatus of claim 40 wherein:

the detection module includes a module for detecting occurrence of an incoming telephone call associated with the particular phone number; and

the output module includes a module for outputting the signal for displaying the information associated with the particular phone number.

43. A computer program product, comprising:

a computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a computer system to perform a method for automatically pausing a video program in response to an occurrence of an event, the method including:

receiving a video program and outputting the video program for presentation on a display device;

detecting occurrence of a communications event during the video program;

pausing the video program in response to the detection of the occurrence of the communications event; and

outputting a signal for displaying an indication of the occurrence of the communications event.

44. The computer program product of claim 43 wherein the detecting step includes detecting an incoming telephone call.

45. The computer program product of claim 44 wherein the outputting the signal step includes outputting the signal for displaying a telephone number associated with the incoming telephone call.

46. The computer program product of claim 45 wherein the outputting the signal step includes outputting the signal for displaying a text message associated with the telephone number.

47. The computer program product of claim 45 wherein the outputting the signal step includes outputting the signal for displaying a graphic associated with the telephone number.

48. The computer program product of claim 43 wherein the detecting step includes detecting an incoming e-mail message.

49. The computer program product of claim 48 wherein the outputting the signal step includes outputting the e-mail message for presentation on the display device.

50. The computer program product of claim 43 wherein the detecting step includes detecting an incoming message.

51. The computer program product of claim 50 wherein the outputting the signal step includes outputting the message for presentation on the display device.

52. The computer program product of claim 43 wherein the detecting step includes detecting an incoming web page.

53. The computer program product of claim 52 wherein the outputting step includes outputting the web page for presentation on the display device.

54. The computer program product of claim 43, further including:

receiving a play signal to restart the video program; and

transmitting, in response to the play signal, the video program for presentation on the display device starting at an approximate location where the video program was paused.

55. The computer program product of claim 54, further including:

receiving a fast forward signal to increase a rate of transmission of the video program; and

transmitting, in response to the fast forward signal, video program at an increased rate for presentation of an increased rate of display of the video program on the display device.

56. The computer program product of claim 54, further including:

receiving a rewind signal to reverse a rate of transmission of the video program; and

transmitting, in response to the rewind signal, the video program at a reversed rate for presentation of a reversed rate of display of the video program on the display device.

57. The computer program product of claim 54, further including:

receiving a slow motion signal to decrease a rate of transmission of the video program; and

transmitting, in response to the slow motion signal, the video program at an decreased rate for presentation of a decreased rate of display of the video program on the display device.

58. The computer program product of claim 43, further including:

receiving a frame forward signal to display a next frame of the video program; and

transmitting, in response to the frame forward signal, a next frame of the video program for presentation of the next frame on the display device.

59. The computer program product of claim 43, further including:

receiving a frame back signal to display a previous frame of the video program; and

transmitting, in response to the frame back signal, a previous frame of the video program for presentation of the previous frame on the display device.

60. The computer program product of claim 54, further including:

receiving a jump signal to display the video program from a current point of transmission; and

transmitting, in response to the jump signal, the video program for presentation of the video program from the current point of transmission on the display device.

61. The computer program product of claim 43 wherein the receiving step includes receiving information to associate with a particular phone number.

62. The computer program product of claim 61 wherein the receiving information step includes receiving textual information or graphical information.

63. The computer program product of claim 61 wherein:

the detecting step includes detecting occurrence of an incoming telephone call associated with the particular phone number; and

the outputting step includes outputting the signal for displaying the information associated with the particular phone number.

64. A method for automatically pausing a video program in response to an occurrence of an event, comprising:

receiving a video program and outputting the video program for presentation on a display device;

detecting occurrence of a communications event during the video program;

displaying an indication of the communications event;

detecting a triggering event related to the communications event; and

pausing the video program in response to the detection of the triggering event.

65. The method of claim 64 wherein the displaying step includes displaying an icon.

66. The method of claim 64 wherein the displaying step includes displaying an overlay menu or a hidden menu.

67. The method of claim 64 wherein the displaying step includes displaying an indication of a phone call, e-mail message, message, or web page.

68. The method 64 wherein the detecting the triggering event step includes detecting a phone off-hook condition, selection of an e-mail indication, selection of a message indication, or selection of a web page indication.

69. A system for automatically pausing a video program in response to an occurrence of an event, comprising:

a receive module for receiving a video program and outputting the video program for presentation on a display device;

a detection module for detecting occurrence of a communications event during the video program;

a display module for displaying an indication of the communications event;

a detection module for detecting a triggering event related to the communications event; and

a pause module for pausing the video program in response to the detection of the triggering event.

70. The system of claim 69 wherein the displaying module includes a module for displaying an icon.

71. The system of claim 69 wherein the displaying module includes a module for displaying an overlay or a hidden menu.

72. The system of claim 69 wherein the displaying module includes a module for displaying an indication of a phone call, e-mail message, message, or web page.

73. The system of claim 69 wherein the detecting the triggering event module includes a module for detecting a phone off-hook condition, selection of an e-mail indication, selection of a message indication, or selection of a web page indication.

74. A computer program product, comprising:

a computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a computer system to perform a method for automatically pausing a video program in response to an occurrence of an event, the method including:

receiving a video program and outputting the video program for presentation on a display device;

detecting occurrence of a communications event during the video program;

displaying an indication of the communications event;

detecting a triggering event related to the communications event; and

pausing the video program in response to the detection of the triggering event.

75. The computer program product of claim 74 wherein the displaying step includes displaying an icon.

76. The computer program product of claim 74 wherein the displaying step includes displaying an overlay or a hidden menu.

77. The computer program product of claim 74 wherein the displaying step includes displaying an indication of a phone call, e-mail message, message, or web page.

78. The computer program product of claim 74 wherein the detecting the triggering event step includes detecting a phone off-hook condition, selection of an e-mail indication, selection of a message indication, or selection of a web page indication.